

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 EB-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 HA-02
NEA-07 AF-04 /064 W
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R 191443Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8591
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 18975

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ENRG, SHUM, IT, YO, UR, SF
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
FORLANI FOR GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION NOV. 15. IN
COURSE OF TALK AMBASSADOR YOUNG ASKED ITALIAN HELP IN
INFLUENCING ARABS TO KEEP OIL PRICES DOWN. FORLANI CONVEYED
FAVORABLE YUGOSLAV ASSESSMENT OF US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS,
EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT ANY REAL MOVEMENT IN THE SOVIET
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UNION IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF U.S.
INITIATIVES IN AFRICA, AND DESCRIBED CHANGED WORLD
ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR GARDNER,
MET WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI ON NOV. 15.
TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

3. U.S. FOREIGN POLICY: AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPLAINED CARTER ADMINISTRATION APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY WHICH INVOLVED EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ALL MAJOR PROBLEMS WITHOUT SHUNTING ANY TO THE SIDE. WE HOPE THAT GAINS IN INDIVIDUAL AREAS, SUCH AS SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO SALT NEGOTIATIONS OR TO PROCESS OF PANAMA CANAL TREATY RATIFICATION, WILL HAVE A FAVORABLE DOMINO EFFECT AND BRING ABOUT A MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVERALL IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS AT ONLY THE BEGINNING OF ITS TENURE AND IS TRYING TO LISTEN MORE THAN TALK, TO ELICIT COOPERATION RATHER THAN IMPOSE SOLUTIONS. FORLANI AGREED THAT THIS CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE MOST LIKELY TO PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS. HE SENSED AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE IN THE WORLD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S. WHICH GAVE WIDE POSSIBILITIES OF MOVEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT THAT DID NOT EXIST BEFORE.

4. MIDDLE EAST AND OIL PRICES: FORLANI EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SIOFATION IN MIDDLE EAST AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT LACK OF PLAN FOR PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. HE WAS WORRED THAT SADAT'S FAILURE TO COORDINATE WITH OTHER ARAB LEADERS HIS PLAN TO VISIT ISRAEL WOULD PROVOKE HOSTILE REACTIONS. GOI IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE OIL PRICE INCREASES, WHICH WOULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON ITALIAN ECONOMY. AMBASSADOR YOUNG ASKED THAT

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ITALY USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH LIBYA AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES TO KEEP OIL PRICES STABLE. AMBASSADOR GARDNER REITERATED IMPORTANCE GIVEN BY SECRETARY VANCE TO COORDINATED EFFORT TO KEEP OIL PRICES DOWN.

5. YUGOSLAVIA: FORLANI CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG THE GREETINGS OF YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC WHO WAS PAYING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ITALY THAT DAY. MINIC HAD DESCRIBED SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S RECENT VISIT TO BELGRADE IN VERY FAVORABLE TERMS AND HAD SAID THAT US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS HAD NOT BEEN SO FRIENDLY IN MANY YEARS. MINIC HAD ALSO TOLD ITALIANS THAT HE, AND TITO, WERE WORRIED ABOUT SITUATIONS IN MIDDLE EAST, HORN OF AFRICA, AND SOUTH AFRICA.

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6. RELATIONS WITH USSR: FORLANI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT
RESUMED US-USSR DISCUSSIONS ON SALT WILL FAVORABLY INFLUENCE
OTHER EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE HE FELT THAT BELGRADE
CONFERENCE HAD STARTED BADLY, HE NOW FOUND A CONSTRUCTIVE
SPIRIT IN THE RENEWED DIALOGUE. NEVERTHELESS FORLANI SAW
LITTLE HOPE FOR CHANGE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
THE SOVIET UNION. WHEN HE VISITED MOSCOW IN JANUARY HE
FOUND BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO OPEN AND FRIENDLY ON ALL
MATTERS RAISED--INCLUDING COOPERATION WITH EUROPE
AND RELATIONS WITH THE US--BUT WHEN SUBJECT OF
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HELSINKI AND BASKET III CAME UP, REACTION WAS ALMOST
VIOLENT.

7. SOUTH AFRICA: AMBASSADOR YOUNG DESCRIBED IN GENERAL
TERMS STATE OF PLAY ON SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA.
FORLANI DESCRIBED SOUTH AFRICANS AS "HARD PEOPLE"
SAYING THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO WATCH FOR PRIVATE

SIGNALS THAN TO LISTEN TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS. IT IS
IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO APPLY STRONG PRESSURE ON THEM
BUT ALSO TO CONVEY TO THEM THE FEELING THAT WESTERN
EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS WANT TO HELP THEM FIND A SOLUTION.
FORLANI THOUGHT THAT THE BETTER-EDUCATED WHITES RECOGNIZE
THAT THE SYSTEM MUST CHANGE. THE EC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
BUSINESSES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA CAN BE THE FIRST IN
A SERIES OF INITIATIVES WHICH WOULD EXERT CONTINUING BUT
NOT DISRUPTING PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT. WHILE ITALY
INTENDS TO CARRY OUT ARMS EMBARGO, FORLANI EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES IN CONTROLLING THE ARMS
TRAFFIC. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT DECISIVE INFLUENCE IN
AFRICA HAD TO COME FROM THE U.S. AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES
SHOULD SUPPORT U.S. INITIATIVES. GARDNER

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